

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2011

Lieutenant General Michael D. Barbero
Director, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization
5000 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-5000

Dear Lt. General Barbero,

We appreciate members from the Office of Congressional Affairs meeting with our staff regarding an existing program that is of significant value to the Department of Defense and our troops in the field, but is currently in serious jeopardy. The Fisher Program was funded by the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) and successfully met or exceeded all requirements necessary in Phase I. However, this contract (Contract Number W9132V-09-C-0008) will terminate on April 30, 2011 unless it is extended.


The Fisher Program Phase I was successfully completed in November 2009. Phase II was to fabricate a hardened, deployable system to be delivered to the government for deployment in the summer of 2010. This Phase has been on-hold since December 2009 for various budgetary reasons, not the least of which was the series of continuing resolutions for fiscal year 2011.

While the recently passed *Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act* makes funds available to Fisher, JIEDDO made it clear that they need to assess the available funding from the new budget and subsequently, prioritize the program funding sequence. As a result, the main hurdle to continuing this program still remains that the Period of Performance will expire on April 30, 2011 and the uncertainty of JIEDDO's prioritization. This technology has great potential for our troops in the field and the April 30 deadline represents a level of urgency that does not necessarily exist with other programs.


We value your consideration of the program. Hopefully, these joint efforts will see Fisher deployed so that we may help in saving our service men and women from the casualties that improvised explosive devices inflict.

Thank you for your efforts.


Sincerely,



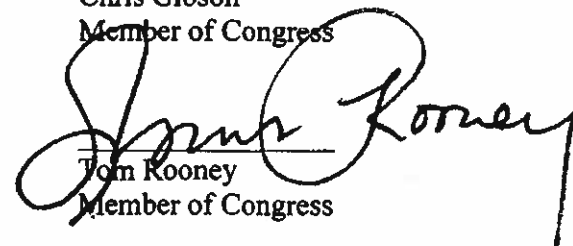
Nan Hayworth, MD
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



Tom Rooney
Member of Congress

Cc: Deputy Secretary William Lynn, III
Under Secretary Ashton Carter
Committee on Armed Services Chairman Buck McKeon
Committee on Armed Services Ranking Member Adam Smith